

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (AMENDED) An absorbent article comprising:

B18
sub c27
a liquid-permeable top layer;

a liquid-impermeable back layer;

a liquid retentive absorbent member, interposed between said top layer and said back layer, said absorbent member being arranged to form (a) an opposing pair of barrier cuffs which are within longitudinal edges of said top layer and extend along the longitudinal edges, and (b) a pocket portion formed between said pair of barrier cuffs; and

a projecting portion located between said barrier cuffs on a skin contactable surface side of said pocket portion along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs.

3. (AMENDED) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said barrier

B19
cuffs are arranged away from each other, and elastic members are provided at inward side edges of said barrier cuffs located along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs such that said barrier cuffs are shrunk along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs over a prescribed length.

19. (AMENDED) An absorbent article comprising:

A
B20
a first liquid-permeable top layer;

a liquid impermeable back layer;

*β₂₀
C₁ d*

a first liquid retentive absorbent member interposed between said first liquid-permeable top layer and said liquid impermeable back layer;

a second liquid-permeable top layer;

a second liquid retentive absorbent member interposed between said second liquid-permeable top layer and said first liquid-permeable top layer, said second liquid retentive absorbent member including an opposing pair of barrier cuffs which are within longitudinal edges of said first liquid-retentive top layer and extend along longitudinal edges of said first liquid-permeable top layer, and a pocket portion formed between said pair of barrier cuffs; and

a projecting portion located between said barrier cuffs on a skin contactable surface side of said pocket portion along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs.

20. (AMENDED) An absorbent article comprising:

a first liquid-permeable top layer;

a liquid impermeable back layer;

a first liquid retentive absorbent member interposed between said first liquid-permeable top layer and said liquid impermeable back layer;

a second liquid-permeable top layer;

a second liquid retentive absorbent member enclosed by said second liquid-permeable top layer, said second liquid retentive absorbent member includes a planar pad and an auxiliary pad, said second liquid retentive absorbent member including an opposing pair of barrier cuffs which are within longitudinal edges of said first liquid

20
12/14/01
retentive top layer and extend along longitudinal edges of said first liquid-permeable top layer, and a pocket portion formed between said pair of barrier cuffs;

means for securing said second top liquid-permeable layer to said first liquid-permeable top layer; and

a projecting portion located between said barrier cuffs on a skin contactable surface side of said pocket portion along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs.

Please add the following claims:

21. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said barrier cuffs are located at a spaced location from longitudinal edges of said absorbent member.

22. The absorbent article according to claim 19, wherein said barrier cuffs are located at a spaced location from longitudinal edges of said second absorbent member.

23. The absorbent article according to claim 20, wherein said barrier cuffs are located at a spaced location from longitudinal edges of said second absorbent member.

24. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent member does not extend to the longitudinal edges of said top layer.

25. The absorbent article according to claim 19, wherein said second absorbent member does not extend to the longitudinal edges of said first top layer.